



FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU

1882-1957

TODAY, the Family Service Bureau renders the following services:

Pre-marriage consultation

Marital problems

Guidance in parent-child relationship

Counselling the older citizen

Counselling individuals regarding personal adjustment

Casework service to the unmarried mother

Casework service to the handicapped

Guidance to families in handling problems in mental illness

Service to parent who is widowed, separated or divorced

FOR 75 YEARS, Family Service Bureau has been an integral part of this community's Humanitarian Effort. It serves the area of Newark, Irvington and West Hudson, giving confidential counselling service to families and individuals with personal problems. Moreover, Family Service Bureau has consistently contributed to the advancement of the entire Social Welfare Movement.

WITH THE ADOPTION of the Constitution on January 20, 1882, Family Service Bureau began its operation under the name of the "Bureau of Associated Charities." It was sponsored originally by the Newark Female Charitable Society, and its first purpose was relief to the poor.

THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION set forth these purposes: "To obtain and diffuse knowledge on all subjects connected with relief of the poor; to raise them above the need of relief; to prevent begging and diminish pauperism; to encourage thrift, self-dependence and industry through friendly intercourse and to prevent children from growing up as paupers."

ON JUNE 6, 1946 the Constitution was changed to reflect the growth of understanding in helping people which had developed among the lay and professional people:

“To promote family and social well-being by helping disadvantaged and perplexed families and individuals without regard to race, color or creed.”

In 1957, Family Service Bureau, as a private, voluntary, non-sectarian agency, is servicing families and individuals who are living or working in the Newark, Irvington or West Hudson area.

THROUGHOUT its existence, Family Service Bureau has been a leader in the social welfare movement in the State of New Jersey.

In 1903, a letter sent out on the Bureau's stationery called attention to the fund provided by a benevolent woman of Newark to defray the expense of a trained nurse for district visiting among the poor. This was the beginning of the Visiting Nurses Association of Newark, whose office for some years was in the building of the Bureau.

The Bureau initiated legislation for the creation of the New Jersey Provident Loan Association and the Newark Provident Loan Association. In 1903, the Bureau engaged a worker to encourage thrift amongst its clients. The worker went to their homes and collected savings of one dollar or more, which money was deposited in the bank in the client's name.

In 1904, the Bureau helped to pioneer the development of the Newark Anti-Tuberculosis Association. It assisted in securing legislation creating a Commission to study the needs of the blind in New Jersey. This resulted in the New Jersey Commission For the Blind. The Commission's office, also was in the Bureau's building for several years.

The New Jersey Urban League, an outgrowth of the Negro Welfare League of 1917, developed from pioneer work in which the Bureau participated. In 1951, the Urban League of Essex County gave its annual award to Family Service Bureau for making the outstanding contribution of the year towards attaining greater American unity—and furthering interracial relationships.

IN ITS EARLIER YEARS, the agency had been a relief-centered organization. However, during the period from 1921 to 1929, the Bureau began to help clients with problems other than relief. In this era of prosperity the agency began its service to families and individuals. Today, in line with the present philosophy of Family Agency work, this is its principal function.

DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION of the early 1930's, the function of family agencies changed. Financial requests in this period rose to such great heights that private agencies could not cope with the necessities of unemployed citizens. State and local governments began to assume this tremendous responsibility. As public agencies expanded in this area from 1933 on, community relief-giving became less and less a function of private family agencies.

IN THE YEAR 1931 the Bureau distributed more than a quarter of a million dollars of privately contributed funds to help those who were in financial difficulty as a result of the depression. The Bureau loaned a good number of its staff to the public welfare agency to help administer its financial relief program. From 1933 on, the Bureau functioned to help families and individuals with problems other than financial.

WITH THE COMING of the second World War in 1939 the emphasis of our agency has been a counselling service with a qualified and properly trained staff. Within the past decade, the entire social work profession has grown considerably. Family Service Bureau has been a part of this growth and has contributed much to its development in the Newark area.

Since its birth, Family Service Bureau has seen many changes, even of its own name. Five such changes have been made:

- 1. Bureau of Associated Charities—1882 to 1920**
- 2. Bureau of Social & Family Service—1920 to 1922**
- 3. The Social Service Bureau—1922 to 1946**
- 4. Family Welfare Society of Newark—June 6 to October 25, 1946**
- 5. Family Service Bureau of Newark—1946 to present**

Since its founding, Family Service Bureau has had exceptional leadership and direction from its Presidents and Board. The Bureau has had nine presidents in these 75 years.

Samuel Farrand—1882 to 1883. He was first, and resigned because of ill health.

Dr. Laban Dennis—1883 to 1921. He served as President for 39 years. He was a member of the Board until he died at age 90 in 1927 and throughout his life was active in the Newark community.

Judge Harry V. Osborne—1921 to 1930. He was a legislator, State Senator and Judge. He authorized many progressive welfare laws for the state of New Jersey and was active throughout his life in all social welfare activities.

Edward E. Rhodes—1930 to 1933. He was a leading Insurance Executive until his retirement a few years ago. He maintained a deep interest in the Bureau and gave astute direction and guidance while directing its activities.

Michael Chanalís—1933 to 1945. He is a lawyer and outstanding citizen. He is still a very active member of the Board and has been responsible for growth of Family Service and has contributed greatly to its program.

John S. Thompson—1944 to 1951. He is the former President of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company and still active on the Board. Presently he is Chairman of the Bureau's Finance Committee, and has been throughout his life most active in the Social Welfare field.

Mrs. William Hamilton Osborne—1951 to 1953. She has been interested for many years in the work of the Bureau and is still an active Board member. Throughout her life she has always concerned herself with community activities.

John F. Geaney—1953 to present. He is an Assistant Superintendent at Western Electric Company and has been a Board member for over 20 years. During his administration he has guided the agency as it made and carried out an extensive reorganization program.

IN 1877 family social work had its beginning when the first city-wide charity organization was opened in Buffalo, N. Y. A few years later in 1882, Family Service Bureau of Newark began its operation. Under the name of the Bureau of Associated Charities, it was one of the 62 charter members of the Family Service Association of America—a national organization that helps to set the pattern for a qualified professional Family Service Agency. Today, as a member of this organization, the Bureau has maintained the highest professional standards in its operation.

MORE THAN 120,000 families have been helped by Family Service Bureau. In the depression years it served financially as many as 2,000 families a month. In recent years, as a counselling agency, helping people to solve their personal and family problems, the agency has provided service in 850 to 1,200 family cases yearly.

IN THESE FAMILIES there were many overlapping problems which annually affected 3,100 to 3,900 individuals.

The counselling service offered by this agency today requires a staff highly trained to understand and help people with their problems. As an essential service in the community, a good and strong family agency can be a great bulwark of strength for families and individuals who need and want help with problems affecting their family unity.

THROUGHOUT ITS 75 YEARS the Boards of the Family Service Bureau have been most outstanding. From 1883 through 1923 they raised their own operating budget.

In 1924 the agency entered into an association with the Welfare Federation of Newark and devoted itself from this time to helping this organization raise its financial goal for all welfare services within the Newark, Irvington and West Hudson area. In 1928, the Newark Evening News began its Christmas fund for families and since this time the Bureau has received a substantial sum each year from this very worthwhile endeavor.

AFTER THREE-QUARTERS of a century of operation, Family Service Bureau is confident that the progress it has shown in the past and present is only a glimpse of what it will accomplish in the future. It will progress with the social work field, and as this field develops, it will continue to be a leader in social welfare thought.

IN THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1956, the Bureau gave service to 865 families in which 3,127 individuals were involved. All these counselling cases required considerable time, skill and professional ability on the part of the Bureau's staff.

The clientele of the agency came from all income groups, with the greater percentage representing the middle income.

____From THE NEW YORK TIMES, Monday, May 6, 1957_____

In reviewing the findings of the Senate Sub-Committee on Juvenile Delinquency, the report states:

“If society is to achieve any really effective curtailment of law violation, it must come largely through the medium of the family since it is there that attitudes of conduct are bred, out of which anti-social lives develop. *Better children can come only from better parents.*

“A really constructive approach to the problem of delinquency comes from an increasingly effective family social work—the goal being to strengthen family life through assisting individuals and family units in-so-far as possible to improve the circumstances essential to wholesome family living.”

No man is ever defeated by his problems . . .

But, rather, by reluctance to seek competent professional help.

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